

THE SOUTH FLORIDA WARRIOR

Air

Land

Sea

Homestead Air Reserve Base Joint Service Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2012

AFRC Top Chef Competition

Army-Navy-Air Force-Marines-Coast Guard- US Customs and Border Protection

AFRC Chefs get chopped

by Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Mid morning Feb. 18, round one was over and contestants stood alongside each other, nervously waiting for a verdict to be proclaimed. Each of them knew the metaphorical knife was raised, and soon one of them would be chopped.

'Chopped', the popular show from the Food Network, was the basis of the Air Force Reserve Command Top Chef Competition between four AFRC Chefs. The Air Force Reserve Command hosted the event with celebrity chefs, Jeff "Stretch" Rumaner and Aaron Sanchez.

Sanchez is the co-star of the show Heat Seekers and Chopped, as seen on The Food Network. He is also is a successful restaurant owner and executive chef. In addition, he has helped create numerous well known restaurants and is a successful author.

'Stretch' has opened two well known restaurants and has appeared on TV shows such as Food Network's Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives and Guys's Big Bite.

The contest was put together by Ms. Shelia Idigpio, Air Force Reserve Command Services Business Operations, to recognize AFRC services and club operations. The four contestants had been chosen from 15 nominated AFRC Chefs, who competed against each other in a three-month process.

The competition was a total of three rounds and emphasized making a balanced meal. Each round, contestants were presented with unique mystery ingredients to incorporate into exclusive dishes within the fixed time.

Round one started with a scurry of chefs chopping, peeling, grilling, and boiling singular ingredients, all in hope of making the best dish. Chef Willie Eutsey, 482nd Fighter Wing Services, toiled over his dish with impenetrable focus. Eutsey hustled back and forth

from the pantry to his station. He thinly sliced different vegetables for his salad and tossed and turned ingredients.

Alongside Eutsey, Chef Dave D'Amour from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, bent over his station, attentively preparing his dish. D'Amour started cooking as a young boy and has a wealth of cooking experience.

Round one's mystery ingredients, zucchini, beer, pomegranates, and conch were transformed in 20 minutes into four unique dishes. The judges enjoyed each dish, but found each needed flavor enhancement or a different preparation method. Contestants were then dismissed to an isolated waiting area until a decision was made.

The contestants were called to the front of the metaphorical chopping block. The audience grew quiet as Sanchez began to announce the final verdict. Hearts sank and 'boo's' echoed from the audience as Sanchez announced Homestead's very own, Eutsey, was chopped.

The elimination of Eutsey surprised many in the audience. Eutsey has worked at the Homestead Air Reserve Bases dining facility for over 15 years. In 2011, he placed second in the Fer de Lance competition, in which each AFRC club competed against each other for best club. As head chef, Eutsey manages a staff of over 25 traditional reservists and civilian employees and has a wide range of responsibilities including feeding hundreds of troops on a daily basis.

"I like what I do and enjoy it to the fullest," said Eutsey. "It's been a hard road for me, but my love for cooking and desire to further my culinary knowledge drives me forward".

Round two, the items were canned artichoke, shrimp, red fish, pistachios and a surprise twist, sour gummy worms.

Continued on page 12



THE SOUTH FLORIDA WARRIOR

Commander, 482nd Fighter Wing
Chief, Public Affairs

Col. Donald R. Lindberg
Mr. Timothy Norton

Graphic Designer

Staff Sgt. Lou Burton

PA Staff

Tech. Sgt. Leo Castellano
Staff Sgt. Bryan Yale
Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez

This Air Force Reserve online magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services, family, and friends of the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Contents of the South Florida Warrior are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

Content is provided by the Homestead Air Reserve Base, its tenant units, and military publications. The content is edited and prepared by the 482nd Fighter Wing public affairs office, 29050 Coral Sea Blvd, Homestead Air Reserve Base, FL, 33039.

For more information, call public affairs commercially at (786) 415-7330. DSN: 597-7330. E-mail submissions and questions to Timothy.Norton.2@us.af.mil.





SOC SOUTH



Command welcomes new senior enlisted advisor

by Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Special Operations Command South held a change of responsibility ceremony for departing Command Sgt. Maj. Donald A. White Sr. and for incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas E. Wall, Feb. 28.

White has served at SOCSOUTH for more than three years, and more than 32 years in the Army. His troops were upset to see him go, but excited to receive another outstanding and highly decorated senior enlisted advisor.

Many servicemembers across the command expressed that they will miss White and his leadership.

"Command Sgt. Maj. White was always there for me when I needed him. I'm going to miss him and his wisdom," said Spc. Neshme Bazan, Budget Analyst for SOCSOUTH.

During his remarks, White spoke about the dedication of the command and its servicemembers during his tenure at SOCSOUTH. He also said that he will miss working with his fellow servicemembers and providing those of them who sought guidance his help. Lastly, he thanked his family for their continued support during his three years in the unit.

"I'm going to miss mentoring my troops. Most of all, I'll miss the camaraderie of working with a selfless, dedicated, and mission oriented team," said White.

Motivated and excited for a great opportunity, Wall assured his commander and troops of his dedication and commitment to meet and over-exceed their expectations as their new senior enlisted advisor.

"I'm deeply saddened to leave the 95th Civil Affairs



Navy Rear Adm. Thomas L. Brown II, Commander of Special Operations Command South, hands Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wall the Non-Commissioned Officer sword Feb. 28. The sword is passed down from one SOCSOUTH Command Sgt. Maj. to the next. (U. S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez, 482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs.)

Brigade, of whom were an outstanding unit of soldiers, but I'm also extremely honored and privileged to be given the opportunity to serve the exceptional men and woman of SOCSOUTH," said Wall. "I am committed to do as the Special Forces Creed says, 'I will serve with the memory of those who have gone before me. I pledge to uphold the honor and integrity of all I am, in all I do'."

The importance of the welfare and livelihood of the special operations troops is not only displayed in the manner of which they implement their force structure and carry out their affairs, it is seen in the Special Operation Forces Truths: 'Humans are more important than hardware' and 'Quality is better than quantity.'

HAIR CARE CENTER OFFERS EXCELLENT SERVICE FOR GREAT RATES

by Staff Sgt. Lou Burton
482nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

No need to fret over Air Force Instruction 36-2903, the base hair care center is open and ready to help Airmen and other military members stay within regulations, six days a week.

"We specialize in military haircuts and we know what the standards are," said Ms. Elda Careaga, 482nd Fighter Wing Services contractor.

Located across the street from the Sam Johnson fitness center, Department of Defense ID card holders can get their hair cut Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on unit training assembly Sunday 9 a.m. to 1:30



Ms. Elda Careaga, 482nd Fighter Wing Services contractor, cuts Department of Defense police officer, Mr. Jack Yuen's hair Feb. 29. Yuen gets his hair cut regularly at the base hair care center. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez, 482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs.)

p.m.

"There is usually two of us working, so one handles appointments and the other walk-ins," said Careaga. "That helps us keep wait times low, so military can get back to work quickly."

Female members need not feel left out either.

"We offer services for both men and women," said Careaga. "Our services range from cuts, color, and conditioning."

Having owned her own

salon in New York City for six years, Careaga has experience styling both male and female clientele.

Low wait times, professional services, and skilled technicians, the hair care center offers great services at even better prices.

"Compared to other salons and barber shops, our prices are very reasonable," said Careaga. "We keep costs low because the personnel deserve great prices. A civilian may get their hair cut once every other month, but we have military members come in once every other week. That's why we offer every fifth haircut for free."

Stop in for great haircuts, or call (786) 519-3108 to make your appointment today.

Do You have a story to tell? Do you know of an event happening on base? The 482nd Fighter Wing is accepting stories and photos by Homestead Air Reserve Base members and family who want to showcase what they do here at the base or on a deployment. Those selected will be published on our website and the South Florida Warrior



Coast Guard off loads 3,500 pounds of cocaine in Miami

by 7th Coast Guard District

The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Northland offloaded 3,500 pounds of cocaine at Base Miami Beach, Fla.

Northland crewmembers confiscated the drugs—54 bales of cocaine, worth a total wholesale value of \$43,254,000—from a 35-foot go-fast vessel in the Caribbean Sea March 3.

While on patrol in the Caribbean Sea, Northland's embarked helicopter crew from the Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON), based in Jacksonville, Fla., spotted a go-fast vessel with four crewmembers aboard and bales on deck.

Northland crewmembers boarded the go-fast vessel, detained the four suspected smugglers, and seized the 54 bales of contraband, which tested positive for cocaine.

The interdiction was carried out as part of Operation Martillo, which is one component in the United States government's whole-of-government approach to counter-ing the use of the Central American littorals as transshipment routes for illicit drugs, weapons, and cash. Operation Martillo is an international operation focused on sharing information and bringing together air, land, and maritime assets from the U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and Western Hemisphere and European partner nation agencies to counter this illicit trafficking.

"This successful seizure by the



MIAMI — Crewmembers from the Coast Guard Cutter Northland offload 3,500 pounds of cocaine at Base Miami Beach, Fla., March 16, 2012. The Northland crew seized the cocaine from a 35-foot go-fast vessel in the Caribbean Sea March 3, 2012. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Nick Ameen.

crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Northland is just the latest of several recent interdictions to occur under Operation Martillo," said Capt. Brendan McPherson, 7th Coast Guard District chief of enforcement.

Also assisting in the interdiction was the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Pea Island, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Key West, Fla.

"This case was truly a team effort involving the Northland crew, our embarked HITRON Aviation Detachment, and the Pea Island crew," said Cmdr. Dale V. Shephardson, Northland's commanding officer. "I am extremely proud of everyone who contributed to mak-

ing this successful interdiction in the early hours of the morning, and in less than perfect weather conditions. More importantly, the crew feels proud that they took a large quantity of drugs off the streets, and that they successfully completed the mission we were sent out to do."

The cutter Northland is a 270-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Portsmouth, Va. The ship was commissioned Dec. 17, 1984, and despite its 27 years of service in an aging fleet, its crew successfully carries out the missions of law enforcement, search and rescue, and homeland security.



SAFETY CORNER



Emergency Preparedness

If a fire or other emergency happened in your workplace, would you know what to do? Planning ahead and staying calm can mean the difference between safety and injury. Here are some common sense steps that you can take now to prevent serious injury or even death in the event of a workplace emergency.

Be prepared

- Know the location of the nearest fire alarm; know how to use it and be familiar with its signal.
- Learn the location of the two nearest exits from your work area.
- Count the doors, desks, work stations, etc. between your work space and the nearest exit. Because of smoke or a power failure, an escape in the dark may be necessary.

Don't panic

- Call 7117 -- don't assume anyone else has called for help. When talking to emergency personnel, remain calm and give the dispatcher as much information as you know.
- Never take the elevator during a fire. You may be trapped if the power goes out.
- Feel a door handle with the back of your hand for heat, then, feel the door itself, starting from the bottom and moving to the top. If the door is hot, do not open it as smoke and flames may rush into the room. If the door is cool, open it slowly and be prepared to quickly shut it if smoke or heat rushes in.
- Leave quickly, closing doors as you go to contain fire and smoke.
- If you encounter smoke or flame during your escape, use another exit. Heat and smoke rise so cleaner air will be near the floor. Get as low as possible to the floor and move toward the exit.
- Once outside, move away from the building and stay out until emergency personnel say it is safe.
- If coworkers are still inside, notify fire fighters. Don't attempt to rescue coworkers yourself once you've made it outside.

If you stay

- If you cannot escape safely, remain calm and protect yourself by closing as many doors as possible between you and the fire.
- Seal all cracks where smoke can enter by using wet materials - jackets, towels, etc.
- If there's a telephone in the room where you're trapped, call the fire department emergency number and tell them exactly where you are.
- Wait at a window if possible and signal for help by waving an object that can be seen from a distance.
- If possible, open a window for air, but don't break it as you may need to close the window if smoke rushes in.
- Try to remain patient as rescue can take some time.

Remember, planning ahead, being prepared, and staying calm can improve your safety during a fire or other emergency.

*Get to know your Wingman...***482ND FW TEAM HOMESTEAD SPOTLIGHT****Master Sgt. Scott Endicott****Job Title:** Senior Munitions controller**Total Time in Service:** 27 years**Served in:**

Operation Northern Watch
 Operation Southern Watch
 Operation Iraq Freedom
 Operation Provide Comfort
 Operation Deny Flight

Importance of job:

Master Sgt. Endicott regulates munition's time sensitive ordinance safety and protocol procedures.

"I am honored to serve my country and to help provide a safer work environment for my brothers and sisters in arm."

**Favorite Quote:**

"People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost."

-Dalai Lama

Teen leadership summit locations announced

The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard announced the 2012 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit locations Jan. 13.

The AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit locations this summer are in Dahlonega, Ga., and Estes Park, Colo.

Teens with a parent in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard can sign up to attend one of the free summits. April 13 is the application deadline. Participants must be 15 to 18 years old.

Teens must answer essay questions and complete code-of-conduct and transportation forms. The first summit is the Classic Teen Leadership Summit in Dahlonega, Ga., June 17-22.

During this weeklong adventure, teens will participate in group activities such as high ropes, zip-line canopy tour, white-water rafting, hiking, fishing, archery and survival classes! Attendees will be introduced to community partners, such as 4-H, American Legion and YMCA, who provide support to military families. The teens will also attend lead-

ership classes throughout the week.

The second summit is the Adventure Teen Leadership Summit in Estes Park, Colo. Aug. 7-12. During this summit, teens will take part in daily adventure activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, horse colt training, arts and crafts, woodworking, technical rock climbing, and archery. Leadership classes taught throughout the week include the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens. Each evening, teens will gather for programs including campfires and songs, musical performances and environmental classes.

Both summits include military traditions and community service projects.

Brandi McGonagill, at brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil or 478-327-2090; Chap. (Col.) Bob Leivers, at rcleivers@aol.com or 719-554-3610; Krystal Shiver, at krystal.shiver@us.af.mil or 478-327-1294 can answer specific questions.

Information is also available at www.afrc.af.mil/library/4rfamilies.

Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders visit troops

by Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders visited Homestead Air Reserve Base to jump with the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights, and to show their support for the troops, Feb. 9.

"This is our third year jumping with the Golden Knights," said Ms. Jamie Quadrozzi, special event coordinator for the Miami Dolphins. "We try to visit Homestead Air Reserve Base once or twice a year to support our troops."

"I'm all about supporting the military and feel honored to jump with the Golden Knights," said Aja, one of the cheerleaders who visited the base. "My brother is in the Army and has deployed to Afghanistan so I know our support makes a difference."

Aside from visiting Homestead ARB, the Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders also visit other military installations.

"We support our troops through base events, wel-

coming Navy sailors back into port, and programs like Toys for Tots," said Quadrozzi. "If the military is there, we are going to support them."



Members from the Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders pose for a picture with the U.S. Army Parachute team, the Golden Knights, during a visit to Homestead Air Reserve Base, Feb. 9. The visit co-insides with the Miami Dolphins effort to support the troops from different military installations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Katie Spencer)

FREE GOLF FREE GOLF FREE GOLF FREE GOLF FREE GOLF

AMERICA'S HEROES GOLF PROGRAM

The Miami-Dade County Parks Golf Division, in conjunction with the Miami VA Healthcare System, is proud to offer OEF/OIF veterans who have served in the combat theaters (AOE) of either "Operation Enduring Freedom" or "Operation Iraqi Freedom", and are current residents of Miami-Dade County, the recreational opportunity to learn and play the game of golf at no charge through the "America's Heroes Golf Program". This offering includes free golf lessons, free use of golf equipment and facilities, and free greens and golf cart fees at four Miami-Dade County public golf courses.



To qualify, you must be an OIF or OEF veteran and a resident of Miami-Dade County. If interested, contact 482nd FW/PA @ 305-224-7330

Rock the **VOTE** Right



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL AIRMEN

SUBJECT: Guidance on Political Activities

As the Nation prepares for the November 2012 Presidential elections, I encourage all Airmen—Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, and civilian employees—to participate in our Nation's political process to the maximum permissible extent. It is important, however, that in doing so, we all comply with the rules that regulate the political activities of DoD personnel. These rules—rooted in U.S. law—are intended to strike the proper balance between a government employee's involvement in the political process while avoiding an improper appearance of official DoD endorsement of a particular political party, candidate, cause, or issue. These rules also prevent the misuse of one's Federal position in support of a particular political party, candidate, cause, or issue.

Prior to engaging in any activity related to the political process, all Airmen should be familiar with the rules prescribed by DOD Directive 1344.10, [Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty](#), and as amplified in the 28 January 2008 SECDEF message, [DoD Public Affairs Policy Guidance concerning Political Campaigns and Elections](#), in order to ensure a full understanding of the extent and limitations of appropriate involvement in the political process.

Specific prohibitions on political activities by DoD personnel may not be intuitive. For example, active duty personnel may not attend partisan political events in uniform, nor may they march or ride in a partisan parade, regardless of whether or not they are in uniform. Active duty personnel may display a political sign on their personally owned vehicle, but only if it is no larger than a traditional bumper sticker. Political signs may not be displayed from an on-base residence, even if the military housing development has been privatized. DoD employees may not distribute campaign literature in the Federal workplace, nor may they seek to influence the vote of any other DoD employee, except to encourage voting in general. Remember campaign activities on military installations are also strictly prohibited.

If you have any questions about what is appropriate, ask for guidance from your local legal office, and obtain any required approvals prior to engaging in the activity. I encourage you to vote and to exercise your civic rights responsibly. Thank you for your continued service to this great Nation.


NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Senior NCOs seek superior leadership



Senior non-commissioned officers pose for a photo at their graduation ceremony for completing the Senior NCO Leadership Course, Feb. 11 at Homestead Air Reserve Base. A total of 45 senior enlisted Airmen graduated from the course. (U. S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez, 482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs.)

by Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Forty five senior non-commissioned officers received their certificates of graduation from the Senior NCO Leadership Course, Feb. 11.

The popular leadership course attracted twenty four of the graduates from other bases.

"The course was two full days and provided the senior NCOs the opportunity to explore in-depth communication, trust, teamwork, and current Air Force Reserve Command leadership issues and initiatives," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Uzzell, 482nd Chief of Education and Training. "This course uses lecture, discussion, and experiential learning techniques to convey topic methods followed with an

analysis and feedback discussion."

This was the sixth time the course was given at Homestead ARB. The next course date is projected for Feb. 2013. To take the course you must be a rank of Master Sgt., Senior Master Sgt., or Chief Master Sgt. and have a current passing physical training test.

"This course focuses on the importance of teamwork, communica-

**'I am an American Airman;
Wingman, Leader, Warrior,'**

tion, conflict resolution, recognition and trust, which are all attributes of good leadership," said Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, 482nd Command Chief.

The course instructors were Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Warbrick, Senior

Master Sgt. Kenellias Smith, Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Little, and Master Sgt. Brenton Black, who all came from other bases to help host the class. Uzzell organized and facilitated the course.

"As I am reminded of the words of The Airman's Creed 'I am an American Airman; Wingman, Leader, Warrior,' we as leaders must continually strive to hone our leadership skills, lead with confidence, and be physically and mentally prepared to carry out the mission - 'Fly, Fight and Win'," said Kirksey.

To find out about future courses, or other educational opportunities, contact Uzzell at Education and Training at (786) 415-7780, DSN 535, or email at Michael.Uzzell.1@us.af.mil

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE IS ONLINE!

**Go to www.homestead.afrc.af.mil for the latest news, pictures and updates
or join *Homestead Air-Reserve Base* on Facebook**

Chopped continued.....

The three remaining chefs were D'Amour, Chef Dean Cook, Minneapolis St. Paul Air Reserve Base, and Chef Michael W. Medford, Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

Cook attacked the fish with a butcher knife, deboning the fillet. Medford chopped his fish into fillets and worked on his sauce while cooking his shrimp. D'Amour boiled potatoes and made a gummy worm sauce to go with his fish. Three minutes left on the clock, the chefs laid their plates out. The food started being arranged on the plates with a minute to spare. The last ten seconds of the round, the crowd counted down the time as the contestants completed their dishes.

The time for tasting and critiquing began. The chefs stood before the judges as each plate was judged.

D'Amour's fish was cooked perfectly and topped with his gummy worm sauce. Judges agreed it was delicious, but there was a major mistake. With the clock working against him, D'Amour had started cooking his shrimp too late. They were undercooked.

Cook's entrée was presented next and resulted in pleased smiles. It was agreed the best part of his dish was the shrimp that he had seasoned and cooked to perfection. The garnishing elements of the plate did not satisfy Stretch. In addition Sanchez thought that some herbs and sour fruits were needed for the fish.

Last was Medford. His dish was agreed to be appealing, nicely portioned, and of excellent taste. The enchantment of the dish stopped as judges bit into the un-scaled and boned fish hiding underneath sautéed peppers. The fish was delicious and nicely embraced the flavors of the peppers, but the scales and bones tarnished its flavor.

Once again, judges debated and the difficult decision was made.

The audience was silent, as the three contestants approached the judges. The decision was announced and one chef's head dropped at the verdict. Before D'Amour could walk away, he was embraced by Medford and received encouragement from friends. Despite his outstanding performance, the undercooked shrimp in his last dish was his undoing.

After two exhausting rounds, a short recess was given. As the warm sun shone on the audience they mingled about talking and enjoying their d'oeuvres.

The two remaining contestants took their places for the final dessert round.

Thirty minutes were on the clock as judges and fans did a three second countdown to start. The dessert round began as the audience cheered. Buttermilk, chocolate chips, cayenne peppers, and Grand Marinier were the secret ingredients to be used.

Medford has worked for five years as a chef and club manager at Dobbins ARB. He also attended the Le Cordon Bleu's College of Culinary Arts.

Medford's opponent, Cook had started his cooking career at age 12, helping his mother in the restaurant business. He worked for a variety of venues and attended Inver Hills and Normandale community colleges.

The final test was underway. Five minutes in and the chefs took on a serious demeanor. As time on the clock passed, the round intensified as each move the chefs made became more delicate and precise. Cook finished his dessert first with three minutes to go. The clock ticked dangerously low as Medford completed his in the last minute.

Cook's crepes were first to be reviewed and receive only complements.

"These crepes are impressively delicious," said Chef Sanchez.

"This dessert make my mouth feel happy with flavor," Said Chef Stretch.

Medford presented his churros and chocolate sauce next. It was agreed the churros were a perfect finishing dessert for a full meal experience. The choice to make churros was a good one, but the time given to cook them was insufficient. After critique, it was established the churros were undercooked and doughy.

The final round was over. After some debate, the judges made their final verdict. Medford and Cook stood with family and friends close by. They anxiously waited to hear the judge's choice, as Idigpio asked for a drum roll.

"The winning club of \$5000 and the winning chef of \$500 and a professional chef knife set of \$200 value is Chef Michael Medford, Dobbins Air Reserve Base," said Idigpio.

Cheers rang from the crowd as friends and family of Medford engulfed him with praises. Medford wiped away tears of joy as he and Cook congratulated each other.

Sanchez then explained what the final deciding factors of the competition were. Due to the fact Medford's dishes made a more complete meal and the fact that to create a well rounded meal was vital.

"Medford won by an inch," said Sanchez. "All the contestants are really talented, they all have their own culinary voice, and they rank with some of the best I've seen."

"It's always a joy and a privilege to be able to help support the men and woman that keep our nation safe," said Stretch.

The event was hosted by the AFRC to acknowledge the personnel who work hard to provide hot meals for the troops.



A Canadian F-18 from the 425th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Bagotville Quebec, and Dornier Alpha Jet's from the Top Aces fly over Ft Jefferson and the waters of South Florida. The 93rd Fighter Squadron "Makos" played host to an international air-to-air exercise at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., from Feb. 1 to Feb. 17. (Photo courtesy Canadian Air Force)

Canadian Air Force flies south

by Staff Sgt. Lou Burton
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air force units from Canada, Oklahoma and Florida converged at Homestead ARB to participate in an international air-to-air exercise from Feb. 1 to Feb. 17.

Representing the Canadian Air Force flying F-18s was the 425th Tactical Fighter Squadron assigned at Bagotville Quebec. Also from Canada flying Dornier Alpha Jet's: The Top Aces, a Canadian contractor that provides combat airborne training services to the CAF.

The U.S. units included an E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., F-15's from the Florida Air National Guard and Homestead's own 93rd Fighter Squadron "Makos" flying F-16's.

"We are here to participate in dissimilar air combat tactics," said Capt. Tom Lawrence, 425th TFS F-18 pilot.

In total, 18 realistic training missions were accomplished giving everyone a chance to hone their skills, critique each other and to share techniques and experiences.

"My first time flying with F-16's has shown me how easily we can operate together," said Lawrence. "This is a great opportunity for junior officers to gain valuable

experience."

Along with the educational benefits of training with different aircraft, Homestead ARB offers the advantageous climate not found this time of year in Canada.

"Our weather greatly affects our air-to-ground training missions. Inclement weather causes us to miss out on training, so being here at Homestead in February is a great benefit to us," said Capt. Greg Myers, 425 TFS long term plans officer.

The benefits are not one sided, the Mako pilots gain valuable knowledge during this mission too.

"Other aircraft bring different radar, shooting, jamming, and flying capabilities," said Capt. Miriam Krieger, 93rd FS F-16 pilot. "Being able to train with aircraft that possess different capabilities and maneuvers makes us better pilots."

In addition, developing international ties helps the United States as a whole.

"Building positive relationships with other forces strengthens American ties to its allies," said Krieger. "This is a great opportunity to train with our NATO allies."



Scouts Visit the Golden Knights

at Homestead Air Reserve Base

Photos by Staff Sgt. Lou Burton



Army Reserve exceeds former active duty service members' expectations

By Spc. Devin M. Wood
412th TEC Public Affairs

For Specialists Jose' Duprey and Emilio Aguiar, coming off active duty into the Army Reserve meant new challenges.

Aguiar was looking to maintain his skill set as a carpenter at a tempo he was accustomed to on active duty. Many of Duprey's acquaintances told the former Marine that the Army Reserve would not meet his expectations.

"I was fortunate to come to a place that has the same mindset," said Aguiar. "It's about accomplishing a task."

"These Soldiers...come here to work, they aren't here to slack off," said Duprey.

Aguiar and Duprey are members of the 758th Engineer Company in Miami. The unit takes advantage of training opportunities during battle assemblies by participating in the Innovative Readiness Training program.

IRT exercises provide real world training opportunities that prepare service members for their wartime missions, while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

"Rebuilding Together" is a non-profit organization that caters to the needs of the elderly, the handicapped and military veterans. Working with the charity, 758th engineers renovate homes in the Miami area.

The Soldiers handle the electrical, plumbing, car-



Left to right: Pfc. Bernard Roque; Spc. Luis Melendez; and Pfc. Jose' Mateo from the 758th Engineer Company measure and piece together new faceboards for a home in Miami as part of an Innovative Readiness Training exercise on January 11 (U.S. Army photo/ Spc. Devin M. Wood, 412th TEC Public Affairs)

penry and masonry. The charity pays for the materials.

1st Lt. Johnny Walker, executive officer, 758th Engineer Company, said the unit's involvement with the IRT program has given Soldiers like Aguiar and Duprey something to be proud of.

"When we started doing these projects morale shot through the roof," said Walker. "They're learning, they're progressing, remembering what they were taught, plus learning new things that you don't get in MOS schools."

Aguiar and Duprey have transitioned smoothly into their roles as citizen Soldiers, and are now team leaders. Their combined experiences and positive attitudes allow them to be examples for younger Soldiers.

Homestead wins first place



photo by Angelique Williams

The Homestead Once Graphics team poses with 1st Place trophies from the U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation 2nd Annual March Madness Basketball Tournament, held March 9-11. Ten teams participated; two from U.S. Southern Command, three from Miami-Dade Police, Homestead, Miami-Dade Department of Corrections, Customs and Border Patrol, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue and the Secret Service. Second place went to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, who fought their way through the losers bracket to make it to the final before falling 58-44. Secret Service was 3rd.